

## SLASH REMOVAL FROM STREAMS



The Forest Practices Act (FPA) rules stress harvesting, thinning, road work, and site preparation practices that prevent slash blockage of streams. Slash and debris deposits in or over streams can block the channel. The resulting jam can cause diversion of the flow and washout of adjacent and downstream banks, side-slopes, roads,



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and skid trails. In the most severe cases, the release of stream blocking slash and debris jams may cause downstream mass wasting of streambanks, debris torrents, or both. Natural streambeds and miles of good trout habitat can be damaged.

There are several requirements for Class I and Class II streams:

1. On Class I streams, any slash or debris deposited in the stream **MUST BE REMOVED CONTINUOUSLY** during the entire operation. Continuously means within the same day.
2. On Class II streams, any slash or debris deposited in the stream **MUST BE REMOVED WHEN THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR STREAM BLOCKAGE OR STREAM TRANSPORT OF THE SLASH OR DEBRIS.**
3. Slash and debris that has the potential to plug a culvert **MUST BE CLEANED OUT**

OF THE CHANNEL ABOVE THE CULVERT INLET AN ADEQUATE DISTANCE TO ENSURE THAT THE CULVERT WILL NOT BE PLUGGED OR BLOCKED DURING HIGH STREAM FLOWS. Channel cleaning of slash should be done for at least 25 feet on small streams and up to 100 feet on larger streams.

4. Large Organic Debris (LOD) can be snags or tree stems over 20 feet long or stumps and root wads of sawlog-sized trees that may fall, or have fallen, naturally into or along the stream. Natural LOD **SHOULD NOT BE REMOVED FROM THE STREAM OR BANK** unless it appears unstable or presents a blockage problem. Care should be taken not to destabilize LOD while removing slash.

**PREVENTION OF SLASH ACCUMULATION IN STREAMS** is always the least costly choice for forest operators. Cleanout work is time consuming and labor intensive. Operators must look at natural or operation-caused slash above culverts during installations to see if potential for blockage exists. Plugged culverts and washed out roads cost time and money to repair.

Idaho Department of Lands Forest Practices Advisors are available to help operators plan their operations to minimize slash cleanout on streams.



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Pend Oreille Lake	Sandpoint	(208) 263-5104
Kootenai Valley	Bonn timer Ferry	(208) 267-5577
St Joe	St Maries	(208) 245-4551
Cataldo	Kingston	(208) 682-4611
Clearwater	Orofino	(208) 467-4587
Craig Mountain	Craigmont	(208) 924-5571
Maggie Creek	Kamiah	(208) 935-2141
Ponderosa	Deary	(208) 877-1121
Payette Lakes	McCall	(208) 634-7125
Southwest	Boise	(208) 334-3488
South Central	Gooding	(208) 934-5606
Eastern Idaho	Idaho Falls	(208) 525-7167
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